A NEW AND ENDANGERED SPECIES OF *DAPHNOPSIS* (THYMELAEACEAE) FROM ECUADOR

Six species of *Daphnopsis* C. Mart. & Zucc. are known to occur in Ecuador (Nevling, 1959, 1978). The species are distinctive, but sterile collections may be confused with sterile collections of *Schoenobiblus* C. Mart. & Zucc. There is no reliable way to distinguish sterile *Daphnopsis* from *Schoenobiblus* other than by direct comparison of specimens. Fertile specimens of *Daphnopsis* are easily distinguished from *Schoenobiblus* C. Mart. by the presence of a calyx tube.

The following species was discovered in 1980. Since then, the forests at the only known locality have been cleared for farmland (Dodson, pers. comm.). Only scattered groups of trees persist along the creekbeds. The individuals from which the type was collected have been destroyed. With continued development of the lowland forest of Ecuador, it is likely that the species will soon be eliminated, if it is still extant.

Daphnopsis grandis Nevling & Barringer, sp. nov. TYPE: Ecuador. Los Rios: El Centinela, Montas de 11a road from Patricio Pilar to 24 de Mayo, km 12, 600 m, 6 Apr. 1980, *Dodson & Gentry 10295* (holotype, SEL; isotype, MO).

Species insignis foliis 45–65 cm longis 15–18 cm latis, inflorescentiis saepe caulifloris, hypanthio anguste obconico 10–12 mm longo, staminibus alternisepalo sessilibus.

Small tree to 5 m tall; young stems glabrous; older stems covered by a smooth gray-brown cortex. Leaves alternate; petioles 1.5–2 cm long, terete, wrinkled; blade narrowly obovate, 45–65 cm long, 15–18 cm wide, subcoriaceous, glabrous above and below, the base cuneate, the margin revolute when dry, the apex acuminate, the venation pinnate, prominent, the secondary veins straight, subparallel. Staminate inflorescence on leafless stems or rarely terminal, umbelliform, sericeous; primary peduncle 3–4 cm long; rachis 1–3 mm long; secondary peduncle 3–4 mm long. Staminate flowers 20–30 per inflorescence, white, sericeous; pedicel 3–4 mm long; hypanthium narrowly obconic, 10–12 mm long, glabrous within; calyx lobes triangular, reflexed, 3–4 mm long, 2–3 mm wide; petals absent; stamens 8, obdiplostemonous, the antisepalous whorl inserted on the calyx lobes, the filaments 1 mm long, the anthers 1 mm long, the alternisepalous whorl inserted 1–1.5 mm below the mouth of the hypanthium, sessile, anthers less than 1 mm long; disk cupuliform to tubular, 1–2 mm long, free, undulate; pistillode 2 mm long, glabrous, on a gynophore less than 1 mm long. Pistillate inflorescence on leafless stems or rarely terminal, umbelliform, sericeous; primary peduncle 1.2–1.7 cm long; rachis 2 mm long; secondary peduncle 1–1.5 mm long. Pistillate flowers not seen. Immature drupe ovoid, 6–7 mm long, the style and base of the hypanthium persistent, the pedicel to 5 mm long.

Additional specimen examined. ECUADOR. LOS RIOS: El Centinela, Montas de 11a road from Patricio Pilar to 24 de Mayo, 2 Oct. 1979, *Dodson, Gentry & Schupp 8694* (F, MO, SEL).

Daphnopsis grandis is known only from the type locality in northern Los Rios Province, Ecuador. It is easily distinguished from all other species of *Daphnopsis* by its obovate leaves 45–65 cm long, cauliflorous inflorescences, and long, tubular-funnelform hypanthia. It is also unusual to find the upper whorl of stamens with filaments while the lower whorl is sessile. The species is so distinctive that it is difficult to establish its affinities. The cauliflorous inflorescences, free disk, and appar-

ent lack of true dichotomous branching place the species in subgenus *Neivira* (Griseb.) Nevling (1959). It appears to be most closely related to *D. gemmiflora* (Miers) Domke from Brazil but differs by its large leaves, pistillode 2 mm long, and sessile whorl of anthers. *Daphnopsis grandis* can be distinguished from all other known Ecuadorean species by the following key.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *DAPHNOPSIS* IN ECUADOR

1a. Young growth tomentose to sericeous; disk annular; shrubby tree growing above 2,400 m ..... *D. macrophylla* (Kunth) Gilg

1b. Young growth glabrous or glabrescent; disk cupuliform or coroniform.

2a. Calyx tube more than 7 mm long; trees growing below 1,500 m.

3a. Leaves over 40 cm long, over 10 cm wide; inflorescences umbelliform; branching monopodial ..... *D. grandis* Nevling & Barringer

3b. Leaves under 30 cm long, under 10 cm wide; inflorescences racemose, sessile, 3–8-flowered; branching dichotomous ..... *D. occulata* Nevling

2b. Calyx tube under 5 mm long.

4a. Petioles 4–6 cm long; inflorescence umbelliform; rudimentary petals present; branching dichotomous; small tree growing below 1,500 m ..... *D. americana*, subsp. *ecuadorensis* (Domke) Nevling

4b. Petioles 1–4 cm long; inflorescence racemiform; rudimentary petals absent; branching monopodial.

5a. Petioles 1–2 mm long; leaves 18–27 cm long; inflorescences 8 cm long; small tree growing below 1,500 m ..... *D. zamorensis* Domke

5b. Petioles 2–4 mm long; leaves 3–8 cm long; inflorescences 1–2 cm long; shrubby tree growing above 2,400 m ..... *D. espinosae* Monachino

We thank Dr. Calaway H. Dodson and the curators of F, MO, and SEL for providing material and information. Research was funded in part by the Tieken Fund of the Field Museum.

LITERATURE CITED

NEVLING, L. I., JR. 1959. A revision of the genus *Daphnopsis* (Thymelaeaceae). Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 46: 257–358.

———. 1978. A new species of *Daphnopsis* (Thymeleaceae) from Ecuador. Selbyana 3: 308–309.

—Lorin I. Nevling, Jr., Illinois Natural History Survey, 607 E. Peabody Drive, Champaign, Illinois 61820, U.S.A.; and Kerry Barringer, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11225, U.S.A.